

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee: 8 June 2011

Subject: Carbon Management Plan - Progress Report

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the progress of the Carbon Management Plan.

2. Background

2.1 The Carbon Management Plan (CMP) was approved by Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee in November 2009 (25.11.09). The primary focus of the Plan is to reduce emissions under the control of the Council such as those from energy consumption, vehicle fleets, street lighting and waste disposal.

2.2 The CMP outlines opportunities for carbon reduction through a range of projects covering energy, transport, waste and water. For example, boiler replacement, pipework insulation, voltage optimisation, lighting efficiency, printer rationalisation, Green Travel Plan, cistern dams, non-concussive taps, dry recyclate scheme, 'smart' metering, upgrading Building Management System, engine efficiency monitoring.

2.3 A target was agreed to reduce emissions by one third by 2014/15 from a baseline year of 2006/07. Further to this, the council has obligations to reduce emissions under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 which sets out a number of mandatory duties for public bodies. In addition, the Carbon Reduction Commitment came into force in April 2010 and requires organisations purchase an 'allowance' for every tonne of carbon they emit (as a result of energy consumption). This scheme is intended as a direct incentive to reduce emissions as it has significant financial implications. Based on current energy consumption, and an initial price of £12/tonne of carbon, this will cost WDC £337,318 for year 2011/12.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The following table shows the council's carbon emissions in tonnes since 2006/07. (Figures for 2010/11 are not yet available as end of year figures have still to be collated, e.g. from energy suppliers).

The table is broken down into the key areas of energy, transport, waste and water and the final column shows the percentage change in emissions since the baseline year of 2006/07.

	2006\07	2007\08	2008\09	2009\10	change from 06/07
Energy	29,018	30,513	28,085	26,457	-9%
Transport Fleet	2,725	2,725	2,776	2,670	-2%
Business Travel	608	608	663	606	0%
Commuting	31	31	25	25	-19%
Waste	1,804	1,804	1,757	1,713	-5%
Water	84	84	86	86	2%
TOTAL	37,634	39,130	36,856	34,859	-7%

Overall, there has been a 7% reduction in emissions since 2006/07. While this is positive, it will be challenging to meet the one-third reduction target by 2014/15 without significant investment and resourcing.

3.2 Key Points

- There has been a 9% reduction in energy - broken down by source there was a 1% reduction in electricity consumption, 4% reduction in gas consumption and 30% reduction in oil consumption. Energy makes up the greatest proportion of emissions - around 85% - so is key to reducing overall emissions.
- The 30% reduction in oil consumption can be largely attributed to the closure of buildings where oil heating was used, and in sites where gas heating has been installed - St Ronan's Primary School, Goldenhill Primary School, St Columba's High School, St Andrew's High School, Joint Valuation Board offices, Auchtoshan ATC, Alexandria CE Centre. Gas is preferable to oil heating as it is more efficient, lower in emissions, lower in cost, and does not require transportation and storage. Oil remains used as heating fuel in 20 properties, including Garshake Road offices and a number of schools.
- In terms of energy, electricity produces the most emissions. There are many opportunities to reduce electricity consumption but this is tempered by the increase in electrical equipment, particularly ICT equipment. The success of printer and server rationalisation in reducing electricity consumption will be realised in the next year. The forthcoming Carbon Reduction Awareness Raising Campaign aims to encourage behaviour change and better 'housekeeping' in terms of energy use and should go some way to reducing electricity consumption. All other measures to reduce electricity consumption would require significant investment, for example, lighting upgrades and occupancy controls, street lighting replacement.
- The 4% reduction in emissions from gas is likely due to boiler replacements.
- Through Securitisation a bid will be submitted to rationalise the council's office provision. This will significantly reduce running costs across all utilities. This is planned to take effect from 2015/16.

- The 2% reduction in emissions from the fleet can be attributed to fleet rationalisation and the driver assessment scheme. Business mileage remains a key area to tackle with no progress in this area since the baseline year.
- The 5% reduction in emissions from waste can be attributed to the introduction of the dry recycle scheme to the majority of council properties and the extensive promotion of waste prevention.
- Water produces minimal emissions. The slight increase in water consumption is due to improvements to the metering/monitoring of water.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 None.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Under the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), WDC has to pay for every tonne of carbon emitted (as a result of energy consumption). Continuing to reduce emissions will reduce the financial impact of the CRC. It should be noted, however, that it is anticipated the price of an 'allowance' under the CRC (price per tonne carbon) will rise from £12 from 2013.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 Failure to continue to reduce emissions could be viewed as a breach of the council's legal requirements under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

7. Equalities, Health and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for the potential equalities, health and human rights impact of this report.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended the Committee note the progress that has been made in reducing the council's carbon emissions.

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Date: 9 May 2011

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Appendix: None

Background Papers: Carbon Management Plan, Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee, 25 November 2009

Wards Affected: N/A